11/1/71

Dear Js,

There was no urgent or special reason to send you the entire ed section of t e Post yesterday. There were a few things in it Lil larked for me to ,ock at, I thought you'd enjoy a couple of the cartoons and I think now the Kraft column, so, on the chance the treatment of the mayoral campaigns would be of interest, I sent it all. I had to go out to mail other things anyway. Thus also the extra carbons of some of the letters, to inform you of things that might interest, no more. And they require no response. The enclosed is in the same category. Except that if you'd care to advise on the effectiveness or lack of it in the EFK letter, it could be of help on some duture occasion.

In addition to all the other great immoralities some of our whores have performed, Lane's fiction about the Kennedy emissaries to Garrison is one of the worst. At that particular moment I was in close personal contact with a former Kennedyite of minor rank, a bright young expert on Constitutional law who had been made the kind of offer few men would turn down by a judge sitting on as apsect of the Shaw case. This is strictly confidential, for it would ruin said young man. If he gave the judge a good amicus curiae brief, for Shaw's lawyers' was one of monumental incompetence, there would be a $5,000 fee and a partnership in the Wegmann law firm. It hit this guy, structly by accidnent, at just the right time. He agreed to get one of the upper-echelon former JFK lawyers to handle one or more of my FOI suits. Then Mark's cheap publicity to promote his rotten Citizen's Dissent and then neither of these guys ever spoke to me again. I must have called the junior one two dozen times. But this one dishonesty could have made so vast a difference in the ensuing years, could have brought about so large a policy change, could and would have attracted the kind of attention required to the fact of the case. The lawyer who was to have handled the case is today a prominent man in public life in a very large state.

There is so much that came to mind, so much that trouble me about us when I drafted the EFK letter. Unless we can get real help, and the selfOcorrupting press seems to render any part of the media unlikely, we will not be able to do anything for years...You may not be aware of it, but there came a time when Garrison stopped attacking Kennedy. Mark made up what he said based on two real things, not emissaries, in which I, not he, was involved. On one of those occasion, the accidental appearance in N.O. of a man who had been RFK's roommate in college, Jim asked me what to say should he meet the guy-and he did not know that he would. At that time I made a suggestions to which he agreed, and one of the last things I suggested that he heeded, a changed approach to Bobby. I will omit all the argument and come to the conclusion: we need all the friends of influence we can get. Why alienate any needlessly?

If BobbY's behavior seems unmanly and is other that that some brothers may have felt forced to, it is, nonethless, the norm of bureaucracy. And he was boxed in more than almost anyone else could have been. This is the reality. When you see the last part of PA you'll also see one case of how his trusted advisers handled him. Katzenback was the intermediary in a blatant blackmailing of Bobby that the "liberal" partisan's of Bobby will simply not believe. In retrospect I regret now that I dod not give K. whatfor over it, even though I am aware of the constraints of his life as Deputy A.G. And this blackmailing was by the Commission. Yet me erstwhile collaborator Ned and others, perhaps influenced by Sylvia's monumental passion-and she can be so eloquent about it - persist in a preconception and in reacting in terms of their lives, their relatively simple lives, entirely divoreced from peronal, political or bureaucratic realities...I am sure you have heard me speak of this on the air in the past. My views of then have not only not changed but recent discoveries have fortified them. Anyway, this today looms as a possible new and major breach in the remnants of the critical community/. But that was not my reason for this letter...One thing you should understand is that I do not hold high hopes for its success. It is, rather, something I felt it necessary to do, and I think it may have a chance. ...The coming weeked one of my young friends is coming. He wants to discuss such matters at length, including what probably are some of my mistakes, and I think I'll tape t e entire thing as a record for the future. If I do it will contain a few grim comments on one of the more respect,for we are all frail, all err, and those of us with the strongest views, of whom I am one, are more likely to persist in the vigorous pursuit of believed error. Best,